

Baxter County History



The Wolf House is the most historical
building in Baxter County.

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

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THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY

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BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Mountain Home, Arkansas

Regular Monthly Meetings are held at 7.30 p.m., the first Tuesday of each month, at the Arkansas Power and Light Building on S.W. 62, Mountain Home.

Active Membership \$ 5.00 per year
Associate Membership \$ 2.50 per year

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Correspondence concerning membership dues, membership, orders for the "History", and other business matters should be sent to the Treasurer. Available back issues are \$ 1.25 each.

Contributions of material for the "History" should be sent to Howard M. Knight. These contributions are very much needed. They may include pictures. The originals will be returned to the contributor.

Neither the Society or the Editors assume any responsibility for statements made by the contributors.

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER AT THE JANUARY MEETING.
The fiscal year begins January 1. New Members may join at any time.

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THE PUMPMAKER was a very important man in the early village and he was always looked to for having special "water finding" abilities. He was always an expert dowser.

"Dowsing", "divining", or "water-witching" was carried on as a regular occupation, although most farmers professed some ability to located underground water. They held a freshly cut forked willow or peach stick in both hands and walked over a spring site; a sudden mysterious pull was supposed to be exerted upon the witching-stick, directing one to the nearest water. The first sticks were made of swamp hazel (hence the name "witch-hazel"), but when willow (which English dowsers had always used) was imported to America, witching sticks were often fashioned from this wood.

--Eric Sloane, "American Yesterdays"

APRON AND NECKTIE PARTY

Invitations are out to the Novelty Society Apron and Necktie Party to be given at Musser's Hall. . . . They are sent only to gentlemen, and they will then secure their ladies in time for them to make their apron and necktie. . . . Each lady will wear a calico apron, making a necktie of the same material, which will be placed in an envelope upon which her name is written. . . . On arriving at the hall, each lady will deposit her envelope containing the necktie. . . . Just before supper the lady whose name appears upon the envelope will be the partner of the gentleman who drew her name. . . . The admission price, including supper, has been reduced from \$1.00 to 75 cents per couple.

--Cameron Daily Vindicator, June 20, 1882
Quoted in the Missouri Historical Review
January 1981

PROGRESS OF THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hazen Bonow, Historian

August 3rd, 1982 Meeting cancelled

September 7th, 1982

Mara Jane Thorn, daughter of the late Lloyd Fiske (a Charter Member) was our speaker. Her talk was about the White River Bluegrass Association.

Bluegrass music, featuring the mandolin and the five string banjo, is based on the folklore of both England and America and is the foundation of American Country Music. The music itself directly reflects the life style and customs of the American people. Gospel songs are always in their repertory, expressing the hope of the people for a better life to come. The hard driving banjo style has become the hallmark of bluegrass music.

Having come from the British Isles, the music travelled to the mountains of Appalachia and on into the Ozarks. Most players are either self taught or have learned from an older member. Bluegrass derives its name from the early 40's band, the "Blue Grass Boys Band" and is characteristically and authentically played with non-amplified stringed instruments, usually guitar, five stringed banjo, mandolin, bass and fiddle.

Mrs. Thorn brought a tape which we enjoyed hearing. Songs were "Foggy Mountain Breakdown", "Old Rattler" sung by Grampa Jones and the "Orange Blossom Special".

In December 1981 the White River Bluegrass Association sponsored its first show at the Mountain Home National Guard Armory. Over 300 people attended. Following the show the membership agreed to incorporate. Their purpose was to carry on and promote the style of bluegrass music in its original form, and to acquaint the public and further its popularity and enjoyment; also to promote bluegrass festivals, programs, meetings, etc. as a family type event.

Mrs. Thorn asked for the support of our businessmen and the community leaders. They need the support of the entire community to succeed.

October 5th, 1982

For our October meeting a very delicious pot luck dinner was held at the Casey House.

We thank Quinby Smith and Dale Tipton for their planning and preparation for this enjoyable evening. Our tables were plywood panels put on horses and placed on the porch and in the two rooms. We had place mats on the tables with "Expressions of the old-time mountain folks" printed on them.

Everyone was very pleased with the progress and excellent work done by volunteers on the Casey House. Even the weather cooperated! About 30 attended and after dinner we gathered on the porch and the yard for a sing-a-long accompanied on the accordion by Nannie Lee Trammell. Ray Grass led the singing of old time songs.

After dark the two kerosene lamps which Elizabeth Smith had placed on the fireplace mantle were lit and they added the old fashioned atmosphere to our gathering.

November 1st, 1982

Dr. John Ferguson, the State Historian, and Lucy Robinson, head of the State Commemorative Commission, were our guest speakers on "Historical Research". Dr. Ferguson is located at the State Capitol Mall on Mondays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Research Room. Miss Robinson is at the Old State House.

November 1st, 1982, continued

There are all sorts of records contained in the archives - records of Indians, Indian agents, census, pensions, military service, newspaper files, cemeteries, maps, etc. There are 700 records of Arkansas counties on microfilm, also 1832-1971 postoffice locations and many other things the genealogists are interested in.

Miss Robinson has been with the Commemorative Commission since 1975 and works at the Old State House. She is a consultant on historic preservation and talked on the steps to furnish old historic homes and advised to make the Casey House look like the Caseys lived there; take pictures of any furniture that has been kept by the family and duplicate it as near as possible. She showed many slides of old Arkansas houses and interiors.

The following morning Quinby Smith took Dr. Ferguson and Miss Robinson to the Casey House so they might understand our project. They were enthusiastic and pleased with what has been accomplished.

* * * * *

EARLY CHILDREN'S GAMES

Thread the Needle

A group of children join hands, forming a straight line. The players at each end of the line have this conversation: "How many miles to Babylon?" "Three score and ten." "Can I get there by candlelight?" "Yes, and back again." "Then open the gates without more ado, and let the King and his men pass through." The child and the one next to him at the end of the line opposite the last speaker, form an arch with their joined hands, and the speaker runs under the arch while the whole line follows, still holding hands. This should be done without breaking hands. When everybody has passed through, different players are at the ends of the line and the conversation is repeated.

Button, Button

The children sit in a circle with their hands closed, fingers up. One of the children takes the button and goes around the circle with it, tapping the closed fists of the players and pretending to insert the button. While going around the circle he says, "Button, button, who's got the button?" Each child is then required to guess who has it. The one who guesses correctly takes the place of the leader. Those who guess wrong must pay a forfeit.

Hide the Thimble

All of the children are sent out of the room except the one who is hiding the thimble. He places it where it is not easily seen but is visible when attention is called to it. As each child discovers the thimble, he calls out, "Rorum torum corum" and takes a seat. A seeker may be assisted by the others, who call out, "You're freezing." "You're cold," or "You're burning up", according to how close to the thimble he is. The one who finds it last has to hide it next.

* * * * *

A FEW YEARS AGO EVERY MAN CARRIED A FOLDING KNIFE CALLED A PENKNIFE. Many men still carry them, yet few know they are so called because they were designed for sharpening crow quills before the time of steel pens. Aged men enjoyed whittling with their penknives. It was a joy to keep a knife sharp and clean, just as it was to keep an ax in perfect condition. Creativeness need not always be a thing of splendor; there is sufficient beauty in a pile of well-stacked kindling or a clean cut pile of cordwood to make a man feel good.

TRIMBLE FLATS - NOW LAKEVIEW

Mrs. Helen C. Lindley of Dolph, Arkansas, editor of The Izard County Historian, had a very interesting article about the Trimble family in the very first issue of The Historian, dates January 1970. The following is abstracted from that article.

Five Trimble brothers came to America from Ireland between 1740 and 1744. Some settled in Virginia and some in Pennsylvania. One of them, James Finis Trimble's father, settled in Virginia and James was born on October 20, 1790. Soon after his birth, the family migrated to Kentucky. In 1811 at the age of 21, James Finis went to Arkansas and settled at first at Strawberry Creek, but afterwards at what is now Dolph.

James Finis married Phoebe G. Walker in 1815. They had ten children, six girls and four boys. One of the boys was John Newton who was born on April 14, 1827. James and Phoebe in 1858 deeded 107 acres to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. On this land, called the Trimble Campgrounds, were held revival meetings each year where people from miles around camped around the meetin' arbor during the revivals. There was a large spring in front of the church which was usually dammed up so the water could be used for baptism by immersion.

In 1910 a church was built on this site and it was known as the Trimble Campground Church. The Campground Cemetery is located on a hill above the church.

In 1970 the house built by James Finis was still standing. It was considered probably the oldest structure still standing in Izard County. It was built of hand hewn logs, 20 feet by 20 feet with an upstairs.

James Finis Trimble died September 8, 1865 at his home. Phoebe died at their daughter Jane Trimble Swan's home in 1870. They are buried in the Campground Cemetery. The last member of the family carrying the Trimble name left Izard County between 1865 and 1868.

John Newton Trimble bought White River bottom land in a area about one mile above where the Bull Shoals Dam is now located. This general area was known as Trimble Flats, and is now Lakeview. He raised two families there. His first wife was Mary Cooper of Izard County. They had six children, three sons and three daughters, but only two sons lived to have families, Allan Cooper Trimble and James McGregor Trimble.

John Newton's second wife was a widow, Sarah Elizabeth Hunt Cole of Izard County. They had four children, three daughters and one son. All lived to have families. John Newton had joined the Arkansas Volunteers while he was still in his teens and was in the Battle of Buena Vista. He served under General Zachary Taylor and remembered the General on his favorite horse, "Whitey".

When Arkansas Colonel Archibald Yell fell in battle, John helped carry his body onto the boat Vera Cruz for the trip to New Orleans, and off again at New Orleans.

He served in the Civil War on the side of the Conferderacy as a 1st Lieutenant in Company A, Ford's Battalion, Missouri Cavalry Regiment C. L. A.

He died March 23, 1915, at the age of 87, at the home of his daughter Matilda in Harrison, Arkansas, and is buried there.

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

The occasion was the October 5th meeting of the Baxter County Historical Society at the Casey House.

Group in front of the house: - (Photograph by Ray Grass)

Standing on the porch (l to r)

Millie Tullgren, Dorothy Williams, Mildred Bettag, Richard Nelson,
Emerson Stickford, Frances Ruthven, Dorothy Harris, Paul Harris, Dale Tipton

Standing before porch at right

Don Alley, Ernest Grassell, Leo Davis

Sitting on porch

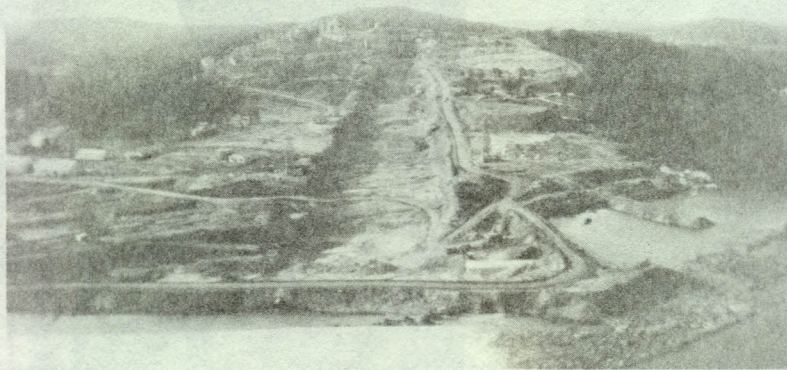
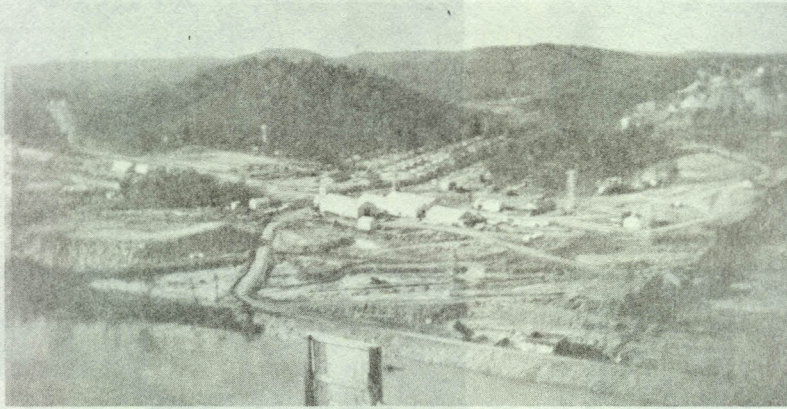
Shirley Poynter, Dorothy Oster, Paull Tullgren, Olive Knight,
Roma Stickford, Clema Alley

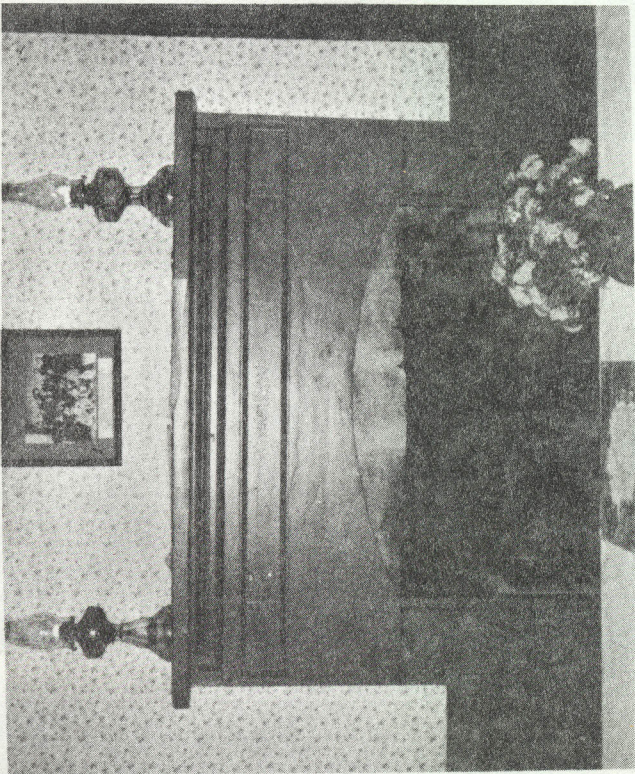
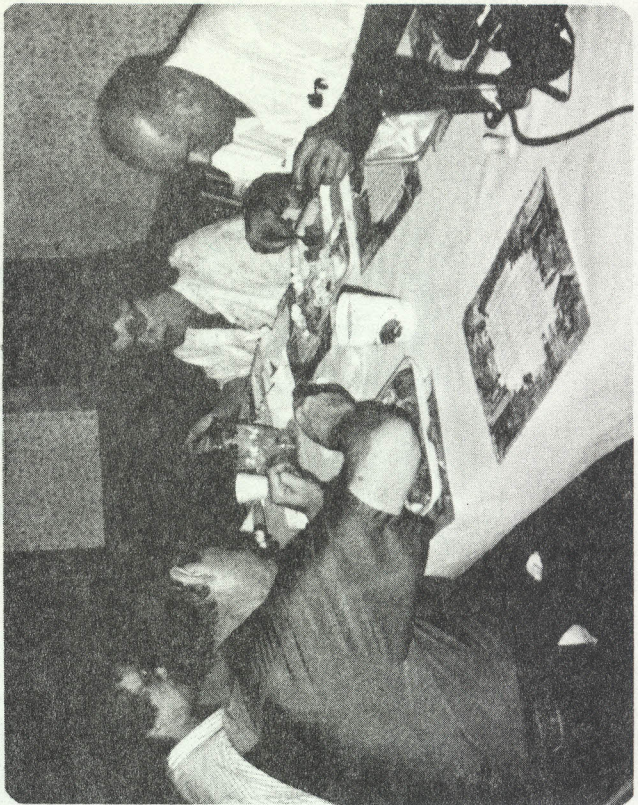
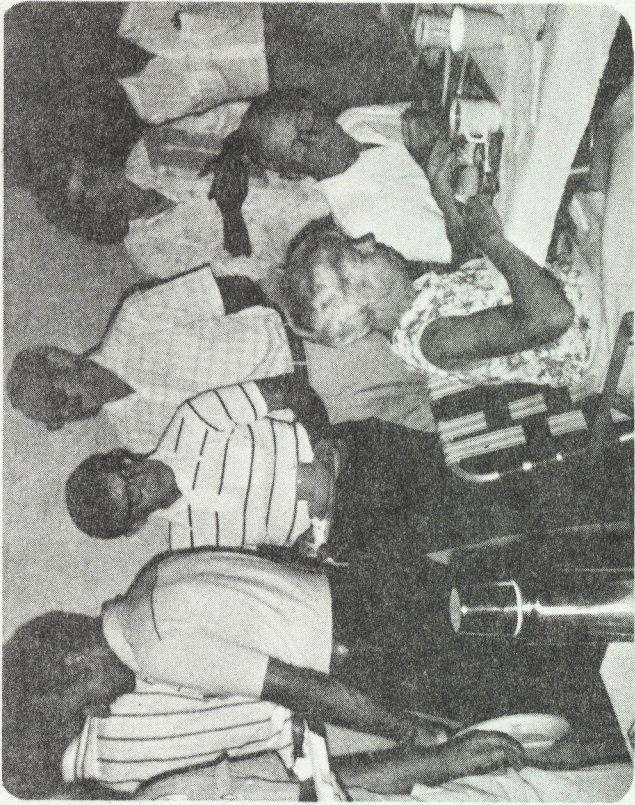
Sitting in front row

Glenn Rowland, Quinby Smith, Kenneth Trammell, Hazen Bonow, Elizabeth Smith,
Mrs. Glenn Rowland, Nannilee Trammell, Howard Knight, Opal Davis, Robert
Ruthvern, Jr.

Next page 30: - (Photographs by Olive Knight)

1. Fireplace mantel in Casey House
2. Line-up: Dale Tipton, Ernest Grassell, Richard Nelson, Dorothy Williams,
Ray Grass. Seated: Roma and Emerson Stickford
3. The Spread: Robert Ruthven, Jr., Frances Ruthven, Karen Poynter, Shirley
Poynter, Mildred Bettag
4. Eating: Marion Rowland, Glenn Rowland, Dorothy Williams, Ray Grass





NINETEENTH IN A SERIES ON CEMETERIES

IN BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS

By D. G. Carroll

LONE ROCK CEMETERY

Located at Lone Rock about six miles southwest of the
bridge at Norfork, on Forest Service Road.

<u>ARRON</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
	Isabelle Arron	Age: 17 years	
<u>AUSBURN</u>			
	Jessie James Ausburn	1880	1900
<u>CLAW</u>			
	Geo. C. Claw	1849	1930
<u>CRYMES</u>			
	Nannie Crymes	1850	1950
<u>GOSSETT</u>			
	Charlie Lee Gossett	1901	1901
<u>HAMILTON</u>			
	Infant Son of J. F. Hamilton	no date	no date
<u>HAMON</u>			
	Rose Hamon	July 23, 1915	July 23, 1915
<u>HAVNER</u>			
	Fannie B. Havner	1886	1905
	Mary Havner	1837	1900
<u>HENDERSON</u>			
	James Henderson	1877	1954
<u>KIRKLAND</u>			
	Francis Kirkland	1878	1920
	L. C. Kirkland	1861	Feb. 22, 1927
	Leon Allen Kirkland	Jan. 13, 1914	Nov. 30, 1966
	Roy Kirkland	1910	1965
	Roy Gerald Kirkland	May 23, 1929	June 28, 1945
<u>LANE</u>			
	Infant of W. H. and M. B. Lane	Mar. 17, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916
	Mary B. Lane	Jan. 27, 1898	Apr. 1, 1916
<u>SHEID</u>			
	Son of Dr. & Mrs. Octavan Sheid	Feb. 14, 1911	Feb. 14, 1911

NEW MEMBERS FOR 1982

Paul and Dorothy Harris, 874 Circle Drive, Mountain Home
 Glenn and Marion Rowland, 621 South Baker, Mountain Home
 Paull and Millie Tullgren, 1603 Monroe, Mountain Home
 Eileen C. Emerson, 351 3/4 West 10th, Eugene, OR 97401
 Tank Rea, 326 East 9th, Mountain Home
 Earle Johnson, 602 Fern Street, Mountain Home
 Ronald F. Switzer, 22310 Morley Avenue, Dearborn, MI 48124
 Jim F. McClure, 3218 South College Street, P. O. Box 213, Mountain Home
 Rex and Neva E. Paul, P. O. Box 177, Cotter, AR 72626
 Mrs. Johnny R. Dunlap, 7837 Maplewood Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76118

RENEWALS FOR 1982

Fanny M. Ellis, 7208 East 84th Street, Kansas City, MO 64138
 Mrs. Alfreda C. Rhoades, 1407 Little Avenue, Grandview, MO 64030
 Ernest L. Raymond, 136 South Washington Street, Millersburg, OH 44654
 Nadine Chambless, 715 Owensons Drive, Dallas, TX 75224
 Lila M. Jones, 4609 1/2 Fern Place, Los Angeles, CA 90032

* * * * *

LETTER

from Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Hodge, Twin Falls, Idaho
 in the June 1982 "The Ozarks Mountaineer"

"As always we enjoyed everything in "The Mountaineer", but especially the story of "The House Casey Built" in Mountain Home, Arkansas. That is our home. We knew Mrs. Ralph Jones who owned the home. One of her sons lived in Eden, Idaho. We were friends of the Matt Green family and went to many square dances there. We also know several of the people mentioned in the story. I am glad to know it is being restored, and we will definitely go see it if it is open when we go "home" this summer. The mention of the court house and square brought back memories, too. It wouldn't be "home" without it. Most everything else has changed so much"

* * * * *

LOOKING BACKWARD - Baxter Bulletin, November 8, 1907

"It is not without some pride that we say that our bank here in Mountain Home has not been affected in the least by the present money stringency. While but few all over the Country have really suffered, many of them have had to limit the withdrawals of their depositors, also to refuse to handle all outside business beside their regular routine. The Mountain Home Bank has not found it necessary to put any restrictions on its depositors and is handling all the business that come their way. This shows the foresight of good banking ability and it will be appreciated by its patrons.

* * * * *

THE PLAQUE AT THE CASEY HOUSE

It was erected in 1976 by our Historical Society and given by two of Colonel Casey's great great grandchildren, Rex Paul and Nannie Lee Paul Trammell, to commemorate the building of the house in 1858, the acquisition by Baxter County in 1971, and its inclusion in the National Register of Historic Monuments in 1975. Standing on a stone plinth in the yard it reads: "Built in 1858 by Randolph D. Casey this house was the first business place and court house in Baxter County. It was purchased by the County in 1971 for restoration and placed in the National Register of Historic Monuments in 1975. This Plaque erected 1976 by Descendants of R. D. Casey."

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS,
PRESENTED BY JOSEPH BLOOM, AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF OUR SOCIETY

Article I of the Articles of Incorporation to read:
"The name of the corporation is: BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL AND
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC." in lieu of "The name of the corporation
is BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC."

Article I of the Constitution to read:
"The Society shall be known as the "BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL AND
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC." in lieu of "The Society shall be known as
the BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC."

Endorsed

Howard M. Knight

Quinby Smith

Elizabeth Smith

Hazen E. Bonow

Henrietta Gillman

BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY

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